# Wildcat #18

Monthly Newsletter of the Industrial Workers of The World OCTOBER 2021


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### SOLIDARITY WITH WORKERS IN MYANMAR:

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Members of the Industrial Workers of the World in England, Scotland and Ireland took part in worker solidarity actions as part of the international week of action with workers in Myanmar.

In solidarity pickets took place in Bristol, Glasgow, Derry, Belfast and Dublin City Centres as members of the Industrial Workers of the World extended it's hand of solidarity with the various unions and grassroots social justice movements in Myanmar such as the Federation of General Workers Myanmar (FGWM), All Burma Federation of Trade Unions (ABFTU) and Food not Bombs Myanmar.

This also includes the support of the Asia Working Group of the International Confederation of Labour (ICL) who have confirmed a host of international companies that continues to assist the regime and/or military owed businesses.

A member of the IWW Derry spoke during one of the actions saying "We're here as part of a wave of international support with workers in Myanmar which is coordinated by the International Confederation of Labour (ICL).

"The reaction is great from the public who have been totally unaware of what's happening to workers across Myanmar.

"People have been so positive and wanted to know more about what is going on.

"This is what international worker's solidarity looks like.

"We're here in Derry, Glasgow, Bristol, Belfast and Dublin as an international union to highlight the murder of workers in Myanmar knowing that other unions across Europe and the rest of the world are taking part in similar actions. For ourselves as a revolutionary union, we believe that an injury to one, is an injury to all!"

### BLOOD MONEY CAMPAIGN

For updates, more information and how your area can help out at actions locally, please check out our social media pages and main IWW websites:

**#bloodmoneycampaign**
**#whatshappeninmyanmar**
**globalmayday.net**

# A YEAR ON:

# *Of Wildcats & Newsletters*

Of Wildcats and Newsletters: A Year On
It is coming up to a year since I have been a member of the Newsletter Committee producing Wildcat, and I wanted to briefly share a few thoughts reflecting on my experience so far.

Real change comes when we take action in our workplaces, communities and neighborhoods, nevertheless reporting on and promoting such actions as well as developing analysis is also important. After all, words carry power.

This is what we've been trying to do with Wildcat all this time. We hear our fellow workers' stories and struggles. We get to know about the battles that we've won as a union as well as about those that we've lost. We ask our fellow IWW members to share those stories with us.

We then put everything together and the magic happens (or something like that). By sharing stories about events, campaigns, pickets and so on, we wish to remind to our fellow workers, and to ourselves, that we are not alone!

Organising is surely not easy, yet things keep happening and it's important that the branch next door gets to know about it.

This can inspire and motivate people serving as a beacon of hope.

Additionally, reading about what's going on in the union perhaps provides an opportunity to also develop our politics, individualy and collectevily as an organisation, by critically engaging with other people's thoughts, experiences, and approaches starting conversations in the spirit of solidarity.

I will wrap this up here and I will encourage our fellow workers to keep sending their stories and to consider joining the Newsletter Committee to ensure that this project remains alive and sustainable. Doing stuff is important, but finding the language to describe what we're doing matters too!

**Georgios**
**Member of Wildcat Newsletter Committee (WISERA)**
**Sheffield Branch**

**Fellow Workers,**

This is to let you know that from the October issue onwards the Wildcat Newsletter will no longer be for internal consumption only but will be going public! That means that all union members are free to download the Newsletter and share it on their branch's social media, print it out and distribute it and so on. We're currently working with the Comms department to make this as efficient as possible from a technical point of view.

*Happy reading!*

**Wildcat IWW Newsletter Committee**

# London Branch Sets Priorities for the Coming Year

On the 18th September the London branch held its AGM. In addition to maintaining virtual attendance, it was great to have people come together in person. Along with branch motions and officer elections, we discussed our campaigning priorities for the next year.

We started by focussing on the Teaching English as a Foreign Language sector. We have a strong local TEFL presence, which provides something of a base for organising the sector nationally. This would require building up our existing networks; we've done strong casework and plan to restart leafletting outside local language schools.

The sector suffers poor management, inconsistent rates of pay and unstable employment, and we have our sights fixed on issues surrounding rolling fixed-term contracts; we want to challenge this unwelcome industry norm and bring stability to workers, and we're making headway with casework related to this.

The second industry we want to focus on is brewery workers. This would involve a renewed organising push at Beavertown, as well as building on our connections with the Burum Collective, BrewDog workers and other ongoing independent campaigns around bullying and harassment. We've organised an industry action committee meeting to discuss how to leverage public industry events to renew our presence in the sector.

Our branch discussed recent campaigns and their success, particularly with the workers at Bala Baya. We covered issues around member burnout, pickets, social media & communications and how best we might engage with hospitality workers. We reflected on what we've learnt as a branch and how we might improve.

One member shared his experiences and advice on recent employment tribunals which proved to be worthwhile in terms of recognising lessons learnt and planning ahead. There is potential for engaging with employment tribunals with some members and we encouraged those with experience in this area to offer their support.

There was also a brief training on disciplinary and grievance procedures so all London IWW members are aware of them and can request more in-depth training in future.

As a branch we want to take this opportunity to shift our focus back to organising after being unable to do this kind of shoe leather work during COVID.

If FWs in London branch or nationally would like to know more about these campaigns, or would like to offer support or reflections, please contact:

**london.organiser@iww.org.uk.**

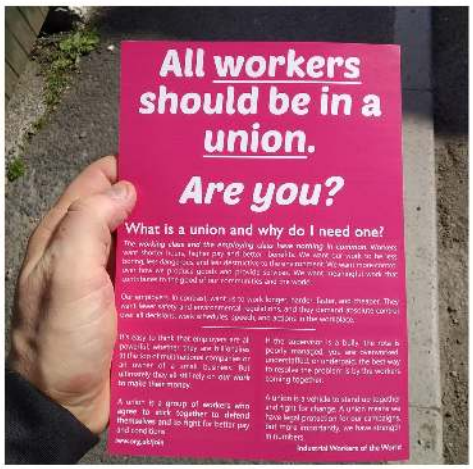
**Solidarity,**
**London branch**

# Lighting Fires Out In The Sticks: Diary #2

**In the last diary entry, I noted how I was organising in rural North Devon, focusin on my own workplaces and looking for ways to grow the union.**

Due to the nature of my roles the workplace organising has been quite slow, but at one of the sites we have successfully reversed accidental wage-theft against cleaners. Without going into details, the issue was most likely a matter of oversight on the part of management, but with a few emails we managed to ensure that all cleaners received compensation for reading annual mandatory documents.

Cleaners hadn't been compensated for this for years. One of the workers stated "Oh wow! I didn't think they [management] would do anything!". The little wins can help to change perceptions of what is possible. In the meantime, I am trying to publicise the IWW in local neighbourhoods. In the past I have sometimes relied too much on social media as a form of outreach for trade unionism.




Online content can be useful to maintain an existing audience, but we cannot depend on algorithms to spread our ideas to new people.

Leafleting is an easy way to publicise the union to workers who we would struggle to contact solely online.

It is also a fairly low-effort exercise; on sunny afternoons I spend half an hour or so roaming around my local neighbourhood popping these leaflets in doors.

Though I do it alone, it could be a fun project to do with a friend and it can be as organised or adhoc as you like.

**I really recommend as many members do this as possible, as it is a good way to introduce the union to local people and you can have some great conversations – and perhaps recruit some new fellow workers!**

**IWW, North Devon**

## IWW ONLINE TRAINING

### DEC training (Online)

The DEC is the highest body of the union between conferences and is responsible for oversight of the regional administration departments and for dealing with issues branches raise and face.

This training will cover the role of the DEC in relation to the union at large as well as the role of the branch delegates who form the DEC. The training is suitable for current delegates and those who would like to take on the role in the future.

**When:** October 16, 2:00 - 5:00 PM **Where:** Online via zoom. Register **here**.

### Introduction to the IWW (Online)

The Edinburgh branch is putting on an Introduction to the IWW which will briefly discuss the history of the union, what sets us apart from other unions, and ways that you can get more involved.

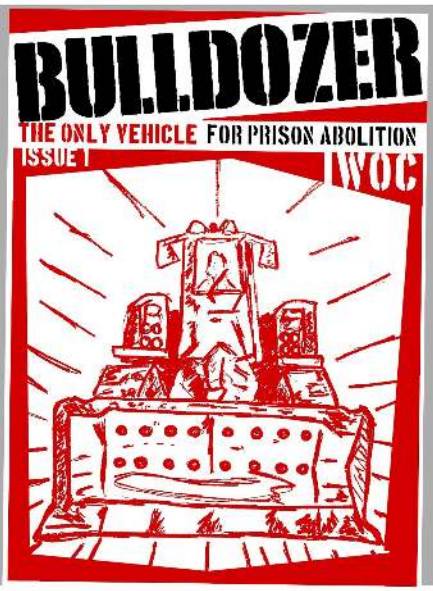
**When:** October 20, 6:00 - 8:00 PM **Where:** Online via zoom. Register **here**.

### Introduction to workplace organising (Online)

Northumbria branch and Liverpool group will be hosting an online Intro to Workplace Organising training.

The training is across two days and will teach you the tools you need to build a workplace committee and take direct action to improve your conditions - these courses are vital.

**Time:** October 24 and November 6, 1:00 - 4:00 PM both days *(Note, attendance on both days is necessary)* **Where:** Online via Zoom. Register **here**.




## INCARCERATED WORKERS ZINE: OUT NOW!

Over the past number of months memebrs of the Incarcerated Workers Organising Committee (IWOC) in Ireland have been working on a new zine which has resulted in the creation of their very own zine titled **Bulldozer: *The Only Vehicle for Prison Abolition*.**

Its introduction states: "Prisons are tools of oppression. Tools that are used by Governments to discipline the working class and repress political dissent. The prison system is also an industry.

"Bulldozer speaks back to this industry of oppression, the suffering it creates and the profits it makes."

Bulldozer is produced by members of the Industrial Workers of the World's (IWW) Incarcerated Workers Organising Committee (IWOC) Ireland with a contribution from Prisoner Solidarity Network.

Bulldozer is free to prisoners or with a donation to fellow workers to help continue this important project at this time.

You can write to:

**Bulldozer**
**c/o IWOC Ireland**
**P.O. Box 346,**
**Derry, BT48 4FZ, North Ireland.**

**IWWSCOTLAND.WORDPRESS.COM**

# IWW WISERA Joins The ICL-CIT

Fellow Workers,
It gives me great delight to inform you that we are now members of the ICL-CIT, thus strengthening our ties with Fellow Workers and, importantly, other anarcho-syndicalist and revolutionary unions, internationally.

For those of you less familiar with this organisation, their project is exactly the same as ours, namely:

**Its main goal is to contribute to deep social and economic transformation worldwide.**

Our membership to the ICL-CIT will ensure that we remain focused on our project of empowering workers at a grassroots level, while also enabling us to co-ordinate the use of the weapons we have at our disposal in our fight against the forces of capitalism.

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch.

**In solidarity**
**William Sharkey**
**Secretary for the IWW (WISE-RA)**

# Attacks on most Vulnerable Continues

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) in Derry gathered in protest with other unions and community activists in opposition to further cuts to Universal Credit payments.

The event itself was organised by the Derry Trades Union Council who are demanding that the forthcoming welfare payment cuts are immediately cancelled. A spokesperson for the IWW said following today's event in Guildhall Square in Derry that "The proposed £20 cuts to Universal Credit payments is nothing short of an attack on all of those who are already fighting to keep their heads above water.

"There is no doubt that our city and surrounding area is already topping the UK tables as an economic blackspot and with further cuts now planned on October 6th, that will literally mean working class families will be fighting for lives.

"This is an attack on workers already on or below the poverty line. It is proof, if poof where needed, that this is effectively a class war.

"An attack by the political establishment, the wealthy few, upon the poorest and most vulnerable within the Derry area.

"For ourselves as a union, it is our belief that the only effective answer is workplace and community action.

"Let's not forget that we are still in the grasp of a global pandemic.

"We cannot allow our class to be subjected to increasing humiliation by the bosses and their establishment. Be that from within Westminster or Stormont who are now in the process of implementing more cuts on the vulnerable and weakest within society.

"It's high time the political establishment received a clear response to their attacks from the labour movement, that an injury to one actually means an injury to all."

**#IWW**
**#CancelTheCut**

## With the bosses screaming "we can't get workers"

## It's time to strike for better wages.

**For too long workers around Northamptonshire and especially those in the large warehouses and distribution centres have suffered from poor wages, lousy conditions, low or no sick pay, sex, race & disability discrimination and a bullying regime from the managers and bosses.**

**With employers screaming they can't get workers or fill vacancies it's time to demand big pay rises and better conditions. Don't fall for the nonsense that we are all in this together.**

**It's our turn to get what we deserve.**

**The distribution crisis shows the power warehouse workers have if they refuse overtime or strike - so now is the time to push for the improvements that have been denied for far too long.**

**Already bonuses and wage increases are being given to keep workers from leaving. Think how much more they will offer if workers refuse overtime or go on strike.**

**The time to demand better wages and conditions is now**

**Join the IWW Union**

**If you want help in the fight to get better wages and conditions contact: iwwcentral@gmail.com**

## ONLINE LABOUR RIGHTS CLINIC

The IWW Ireland Branch now hold a regular online Labour Rights Clinic in order for members to raise issues of concern from their own place of work.

They also take part in educational talks or presentations delivered by members on workers rights and organising.

The October online **Labour Rights Clinic** takes place on JITSI: **14th October at 8pm.**

For further information check Wobchat, IWW emailouts or you can email:

**secretary.ireland@iww.org.uk**